(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government are fully equipped in case of new flare ups of bird flu in the country; and

(d) if not, the advance steps being taken to keep such menace under check by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There was a news-item dated 20th February, 2007 in the Kolkata edition of Hindustan Times captioned "Deadly bird flu strain in Burdwan chickens". This was found to be factually not correct. Department of Animal Husbandry has issued a rebuttal immediately which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 21st February, 2007.

Government have preparedness plans and appropriate infrastructure to meet any bird flu outbreak.

Caesarian deliveries

1287. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of deliveries are taking place in private hospitals through caesarians; and

(b) whether any such data is available which gives details regarding deliveries taking place in private hospitals in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Data on deliveries conducted by Private Sector is presently captured through surveys like District Level Household Survey (DLHS) and National Family Health Survey (NFHS). According to DLHS - II Survey (2002-04), out of the total deliveries 59% of deliveries take place at home, 21.8% in private institutions and 18.7% in public institutions. The same survey also indicates that out of the total caesarian section deliveries, 65.4% were conducted in private institutions and 30.4% caesarian section deliveries were conducted in public institutions.

According to NFHS-II Survey (1998-99) out of the total deliveries during the survey period 65.4% deliveries took place at home, 16.7% in private

institutions and 16.2% in public institutions. The same survey also indicates that in urban areas 14.7% of the deliveries were conducted by caesarian section while in rural areas this was 4.9% giving a total of 7.1% caesarian section deliveries at the national level. The corresponding figures during the NHFS - I Survey (1992-93) were 5.7% urban, 1.6% rural and 2.5 being total deliveries by caesarian section.

Endosulfan level in the human body

1288. DR. M.A.M RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) has revealed that soil, water and human bodies contain Endosulfan in excess of the permissible limit in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to a study report of July, 2002, submitted by National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad which carried out an epidemiological study in Padre village of Kasargod district of Kerala, a possible link was found between the higher prevalence of various ailments including Neuro behavioral disorders, congenital malformation in female subjects and abnormalities related to male re-productive system in the Padre village and the aerial spray of Endosulfan. However, Dubey Committee set up by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, in its report of July, 2003, has concluded that there is no link established between use of Endosulfan in Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK) plantations and health problems reported in Padre village of Kasargod Distt. of Kerala. The Committee *inter-alia* recommended to conduct comprehensive, well designed and detailed health and epidemiological study in entire cashew plantation area of Kerala to ascertain the incidence of disease in Padre *vis-a-vis* Kerala State averages and also in the event of incidence of unusual health problem to determine probable factors responsible for alleged health problems. It also recommended that use of Endosulfan be continued as per provisions of